

REMARKS

At the outset it is noted that a shortened statutory response period of one (1) month was set in the December 3, 2003 Official Action. Accordingly, the initial response period is due to expire January 5, 2004, as January 3, falls on a Saturday. This submission of Sequence Listing Under 37 C.F.R. §§1.821-1.825 and Preliminary Amendment is being filed before the expiration of the initial response period.

The purpose of this preliminary amendment is to insert omitted sequence identifiers for sequences present throughout the specification and claims. Also, original claims 21-26 (first occurrence) have been amended to conform to the correct numbering indicated in the October 3, 2003 Official Action. Entry of the present amendments is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that the December 3, 2003 Official Communication requires the submission of a sequence listing. Applicants note that a sequence listing was previously submitted on May 14, 2002 and that a substitute computer readable form was submitted on March 10, 2003. However, to be fully responsive to the December 3, 2003 Official Communication and to comply with the requirements under 37 C.F.R. §§1.821-1.825, submitted herewith is a listing of the nucleotide and amino acid sequences presented in the above-referenced application. The sequence listing is being submitted in both paper copy and computer-readable form. Applicants respectfully request entry of the sequence listing into the above identified patent application. The undersigned hereby verifies that the paper copy and computer readable form of the sequence listing are identical and do not contain any new matter.

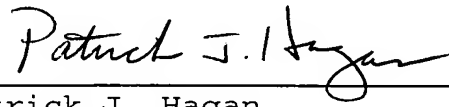
Early and favorable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

In the event that a fee is required for in connection with the consideration of the present amendment the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1406.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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